

# News Release



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## Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Increases to 3.6 Percent

### Arkansas Civilian Labor Force Summary:

Labor force data, produced by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics and released today by the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, show Arkansas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased one-tenth of a percentage point, from 3.5 percent in October to 3.6 percent in November. Arkansas' civilian labor force rose 2,203, a result of 1,439 more employed and 764 more unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate declined to 3.5 percent in November, down from 3.6 percent in October.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "The number of employed and unemployed Arkansans increased for the second month in a row, adding to the size of the civilian labor force. While these gains were small, it was enough to push the unemployment rate up one-tenth of a percentage point to 3.6 percent."

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY  
(Seasonally Adjusted)

	November 2019	October 2019	November 2018	Change From October 2019	Change From November 2018
<b>Civilian Labor Force</b>	1,366,004	1,363,801	1,353,117	2,203	12,887
<b>Employment</b>	1,317,445	1,316,006	1,303,436	1,439	14,009
<b>Unemployment</b>	48,559	47,795	49,681	764	-1,122
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	3.6	3.5	3.7	0.1	-0.1
<b>U.S. Unemployment Rate</b>	3.5	3.6	3.7	-0.1	-0.2

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.

Note: Data for Metropolitan Statistical Areas and minorities and youth will be available online January 3, 2020.

### Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs increased 500 in November to total 1,292,300. Four major industry sectors added jobs, more than offsetting losses in six sectors. Jobs in **trade, transportation, and utilities** rose 4,000. Most of the gains were posted in retail trade (+2,100), due to temporary hiring for the holiday shopping season. Employment in **leisure and hospitality** declined 3,100. A majority of the loss was posted in food services (-1,700), a result of reported reductions at both full service and limited service restaurants. The contractions in arts, entertainment, and recreation (-1,000) are typical for this time of year. **Construction** jobs decreased 1,100, a result of both seasonal factors and the completion of certain projects.

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Compared to November 2018, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas are up 15,600. Seven major industry sectors posted growth, with four adding 2,400 or more jobs, each. The largest increase was in **educational and health services**, up 3,500. Most of the expansion occurred in health care and social assistance (+3,300). Employment in **construction** rose 3,300, related in part to ongoing large projects. **Professional and business services** added 3,000 jobs. Gains were reported in management of companies (+1,700) and administrative-support services (+1,700). Jobs in **manufacturing** increased 2,400, largely in nondurable goods manufacturing (+2,300). Other notable expansions include **leisure and hospitality** (+1,800), **trade-transportation-utilities** (+1,500), and **financial activities** (+1,400).

### ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS

Not Seasonally Adjusted  
(In Thousands)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2017	November 2019	October 2019	November 2018	Change From October 2019	Change From November 2018
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1292.3	1291.8	1276.7	0.5	15.6
Goods Producing	223.7	224.9	218.3	-1.2	5.4
Mining, Logging, & Construction	60.1	61.2	57.1	-1.1	3.0
<b>Mining &amp; Logging</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-0.3</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>54.4</b>	<b>55.5</b>	<b>51.1</b>	<b>-1.1</b>	<b>3.3</b>
Specialty Trade Contractors	34.6	34.7	32.2	-0.1	2.4
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>163.6</b>	<b>163.7</b>	<b>161.2</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>2.4</b>
Durable Goods	77.2	77.3	77.1	-0.1	0.1
Nondurable Goods	86.4	86.4	84.1	0.0	2.3
Service Providing	1068.6	1066.9	1058.4	1.7	10.2
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>258.6</b>	<b>254.6</b>	<b>257.1</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>1.5</b>
Wholesale Trade	50.3	49.5	48.9	0.8	1.4
Retail Trade	141.3	139.2	141.6	2.1	-0.3
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	67.0	65.9	66.6	1.1	0.4
<b>Information</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-0.6</b>
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>62.0</b>	<b>62.2</b>	<b>60.6</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>1.4</b>
Finance & Insurance	48.4	48.4	47.0	0.0	1.4
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13.6	13.8	13.6	-0.2	0.0
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	<b>149.0</b>	<b>148.8</b>	<b>146.0</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>3.0</b>
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	44.3	44.1	44.7	0.2	-0.4
Management of Companies	36.7	36.6	35.0	0.1	1.7
Administrative & Support Services	68.0	68.1	66.3	-0.1	1.7
<b>Educational &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>197.2</b>	<b>196.4</b>	<b>193.7</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>3.5</b>
Educational Services	16.4	16.2	16.2	0.2	0.2
Health Care & Social Assistance	180.8	180.2	177.5	0.6	3.3
Ambulatory Health Care	60.9	59.9	59.1	1.0	1.8
Social Assistance	41.1	41.8	40.7	-0.7	0.4
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>120.7</b>	<b>123.8</b>	<b>118.9</b>	<b>-3.1</b>	<b>1.8</b>
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	9.9	10.9	9.9	-1.0	0.0
Accommodation & Food Services	110.8	112.9	109.0	-2.1	1.8
Accommodation Services	11.0	11.4	11.2	-0.4	-0.2
Food Services	99.8	101.5	97.8	-1.7	2.0
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>53.4</b>	<b>53.6</b>	<b>53.6</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>216.9</b>	<b>216.6</b>	<b>217.1</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
Federal Government	20.4	20.5	20.3	-0.1	0.1
State Government	80.2	80.0	79.9	0.2	0.3
Local Government	116.3	116.1	116.9	0.2	-0.6

Source: Monthly Survey of Employers.

Notes: Estimates are based on the first quarter 2018 benchmark.

Current month's data are preliminary; previous month's data are revised.